A REVIEW OF PRODUCT RECOVERY RATES FOR ALASKA GROUNDFISH

by

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ABSTRACT

This paper presents product recovery rates for 26 major product forms produced from 56 Alaskan groundfish species or species groups. These rates are essentially the same as those currently in use in Alaskan waters: the chief exception is the use of a single rate for roe production in the pollock roe. fishery. It is proposed that the rates presented herein-(subject to further modification through industry review) be used as the standard product recovery rates to back calculate the 1990 groundfish catches in Alaskan waters.

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INTRODUCTION

In June 1989, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council passed Amendment 18/13 to the Alaska groundfish fishery management plans to implement a comprehensive program for data gathering in groundfish fisheries (NPFMC 1989). As part of this program, the fishing industry is required to submit weekly production reports to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) from which raw quantities of fish can be back calculated. Large fish catches encountered in the Alaska groundfish fisheries are typically estimated by-using the hail weight, with large variations in accuracy: products and product weights are more accurately inventoried. From the weekly production reports of each product form, it is possible to use standard recovery rates to back calculate the catch weights of the species from which the products came.

The purpose of this report is to determine standard product recovery rates for all the product forms that are processed from the groundfish species harvested off Alaska. It is also the intent of the authors that industry review this report and inform NMFS of any corrections owing to changes that have taken place in the industry. The technical team analyzing product recovery recommends that a standardized set of product recovery rates for each product form be determined before each year's fishery and be used throughout the year.

METHODS

Technical Team

The coordinators of the product recovery technical team and their affiliations are as follows:

Loh-Lee Low	Alaska Fisheries Science Center, NMFS
Janet Smoker	Alaska Regional Office, NMFS
Jerald Berger	Alaska Fisheries Science Center, NMFS
Leslie Watson	Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G)
Mel Eklund	Northwest Fisheries Science Center, NMFS

To derive this report, the Team drew upon information from published reports, analyzed and reviewed new data, and sought the views of the Alaska groundfish plan teams. The Team wishes to acknowledge the many members of the ADF&G and NMFS staff who provided data, analyses, and technical review for this exercise.

Reports and Data Reviewed

The following are the main reports and data reviewed by the technical team:

1. Product recovery rates used by the ADF&G and the NMFS Regional Office in Alaska. Rates are developed for 70 species groups found off Alaska by 28 major product forms. This information became the model data set from which rates were modified using additional data identified below.

- 2. Observer data, 1983-85. These data have been analyzed for 15 species and 9 product forms by the Resource Ecology and Fisheries Management Division and reported in NOAA Technical Memorandum F/NW-129 (Berger and Hare 1988). The report gives data on species, gear type, International North Pacific Fisheries Commission statistical area, fishing season, sample size, size range and mean length of fish, product recovery rates (minimum, maximum, and mean), and standard error and confidence levels of product recovery rates.
- 3. Observer data, 1986-present. These raw data were analyzed only to fill data gaps and refine product recovery rates in the walleye pollock (Therasra chalcosramma) roe fishery. In general, the Team believes that a more detailed analysis of the data for other product forms would not add substantially to the information already reported in NOAA Technical Memorandum F/NWC-129.
- 4. Recoveries and yields from Pacific fish and shellfish contained in Alaska Sea Grant publication, Marine Advisory Bulletin No. 37 (CrapO et al. 1988). This publication contains generalized data.
- 5. General data on conversion factors compiled for species throughout the United States by the National Fishery Statistics Program, NMFS, Washington, D.C.

Consultations

On 7 June, the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska groundfish plan teams were consulted about using product recovery rates to back calculate gross catches. The teams expressed the desire to a) keep the procedure simple: b) use only a mean rate for each species and product form, instead of including ranges or variances; c) publish rates after the September Council. meeting so that the public will have almost 3 months to comment: d) modify rates according to public comments: e) accept rates in December; and f) resist adjusting product recovery rates during the fishing year—any new recovery rate data collected during the fishing season should be used to adjust rates for the following year.

The Technical Team agreed with the suggestions of the Plan Teams and chose the product recovery rates used by ADF&G and NMFS as the standards to which adjustments would be made.

The Team determined that most of the product recovery rates were reasonable and needed no adjustment with the exception of those used in the pollock roe fishery. The standards listed pollock roe recovery rates ranging from 3 to almost 20%. The observer data base from 1983 to 1985 was, therefore, analyzed to refine these rates.

RESULTS

Pollock Roe Recovery Rates

The U.S. Foreign Fisheries Observer Program embarked on a study of pollock roe recoveries during 1983-85. Samples were collected annually in the Shelikof Strait area and in the Bering Sea in 1985. Product recovery rate information is presented in Tables 1 and 2.

These tables show a wide range of product recovery rates within each category. Part of this is due to the subjective determination of the dividing line between premature and mature pollock, and between mature and hydrated pollock.' In this study, premature fish are separated from mature fish when there is a noticeable upward change in product recovery rate. Hydrated fish are separated from mature fish when the roe sac contains 25% or more hydrated eggs.

Examination of the data showed that the more fully hydrated egg sacs are heavier (and had a higher recovery rate) than those less hydrated, but are also less desirable and frequently not retained. Very few premature roe sacs were encountered in this study as fishing typically did not occur during this stage. Another factor contributing to the variability of roe recovery rates is volume of the catch. Large hauls of pollock tax the processing capabilities of a vessel and so it may choose to retain only roe sacs of the fullest and highest quality. Roe that would normally be retained in hauls with small amounts of

pollock may not be retained in hauls with larger amounts. Very few samples (25) were collected from the Bering Sea, and those that were collected had roe recovery rates similar to the rates found in Shelikof Strait.

For the above reasons, we suggest using only one roe recovery rate for both areas and all maturity stages. The overall average for "total weight of roe divided by total weight of pollock" is 6.50%. The overall average for "total weight of roe divided by weight of females carrying usable "roe" is 13.75%. Since the common denominator is total weight of pollock, the standard roe recovery rate for pollock to be used is 6.5%. If male and undersized female pollock are reported separately as discards or meal in data forms, as they should be, then the higher (13.75%) product recovery rate from female pollock will be used.

Table 1. --Percent pollock roe recovery rates in the Shelikof Straits fishery.

Maturity	Sample	Size Type of Rate	Range	Mean	Median
Premature	12	Roe/Total pollock	1.5-4.0	2.56	
Premature	12	Roe/Usable females	4.6-8.8	6.97	
Mature	173	Roe/Total pollock	2.6-13.3	6.07	
Mature	116	Roe/Usable females	7.4-16.8	12.74	
Hydrated	68	Roe/Total pollock	2.3-16.6	7.83	
Hydrated	69	Roe/Usable females	9.9-20.8	16.04	

Table 2. --Percent roe pollock recovery in the Bering Sea fishery.

Maturity	Sample	Size Type of Rate	Range	Mean	Median
Mature	10	Roe/Total pollock	2.7-10.6	6.50	
Mature	10	Roe/Usable females	6.9-20.1	12.88	
Hydrated	15	Roe/Total pollock	4.3-11.1	8.59	0.5
Hydrated	15	Roe/Usable females	14.8-18.5	16.95	

DISCUSSION

Appendix Tables 1 and 2 contain the list of product forms and product recovery rates for the common groundfish species harvested off Alaska. These are the recommended standard product recovery rates to be used for back calculating raw fish catches for the 1990 groundfish fisheries off Alaska.

The U.S. Fisheries Observer Program will continue to collect product recovery data during the 1990 fishing season. These data will then be used to refine product recovery rates for future years and to fine tune in-season calculations of raw fish catches as may be required.

REFERENCES

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 Memo. NMFS F/N-WC-129, 81 p.
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 Alaska Sea Grant College Program, Univ. Alaska, Marine

 Advisory Bull. 37, 50 p.
- North Pacific Fishery Management Council. 1989.

 Environmental assessment/regulatory impact
 review/initial regulatory flexibility analysis for
 amendment 18 to the fishery management plan for
 groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska and amendment 13 to
 the fishery management plan for groundfish of the
 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands. Unpubl. manuscr., 205 p.
 North Pacific Fishery Management Council, P.O. Box
 103136, Anchorage, Alaska 99510.

APPENDIX

Appendix Table 1. --List of Alaska product types.

Product	code	Description
1 2 3		Whole fish/food fish Whole bait Bled only
4 5 6		Gutted only Headed and gutted (H & G) Headed, gutted, with roe
7 8 9 10		H & G, Western cut H & G, Eastern cut H & G, with pectoral girdle H & G, tail removed
11 12 13 14 16		Kirimi Salted and split "Wings" Roe only Heads
20 21 22 23		Fillets with skin and ribs Fillets with skin, no ribs Fillets with ribs, no skin Fillets, no skin or ribs
30 31 32 33		Surimi Minced fish Fish meal Fish oil
97 98 99		Other - specify Discarded at sea Landed discard

Appendix Table 2. --Recovery rates for Alaska groundfish products.

Specie code	s Name of species	Product code	Conversion rate
100 100 100 100 100 100	Unspecified groundfish	1 2 3 8 32 98 99	1.00 1.00 0.98 0.62 0.17 1.00
110 110 110 110 110 110 110 110 110 110	Pacific cod	1 2 3 4 5 7 8 9 12 14 22 23 98	1.00 1.00 0.98 0.85 0.63 0.64 0.58 0.60 0.45 0.05 0.25 0.25
120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120	Flounder	1 2 3 4 5 8 22 32 98 99	1.00 1.00 0.98 0.90 0.65 0.58 0.22 0.17 1.00

Appendix Table 2.--Continued.

Specie code	s Name of species	Product code	Conversion rate
121 121 121 121 121 121 121 121 121 121	Arrowtooth flounder	1 2 3 4 5 8 10 22 23 98 99	1.00 100 0.98 0.90 0.74 0.60 0.62 0.25 0.34 1.00
122 122 122 122 122 122 122 122 122	Flathead sole	1 2 3 4 5 8 22 98 99	1.00 1.00 0.98 0.90 0.65 0.60 0.22 1.00
123 123 123 123 123 123 123 123 123 123	Rock sole	1 2 3 4 5 6 8 20 22 98 99	1.00 1.00 0.98 0.87 0.65 0.78 0.58 0.28 0.22 1.00

12 Appendix Table 2.--Continued.

Specie code	s Name of species	Product code	Conversion rate
124 124 124 124 124 124 124 124 124	Dover sole	1 2 3 4 5 8 22 98 99	1.00 1.00 0.98 0.90 0.65 0.58 0.22 1.00
125 125 125 125 125 125 125 125 125	Rex sole	1 2 3 4 5 8 22 98 99	1.00 1.00 0.98 0.90 0.65 0.58 0.22 1.00
126 126 126 126 126 126 126 126	Butter sole	1 2 3 4 5 22 98 99	1.00 1.00 0.98 0.90 0.65 0.22 1.00
127. 127 127 127 127 127 127 127 127 127	Yellowfin sole	1 2 3 4 5 11 20 22 98 99	1.00 1.00 0.98 0.90 0.65 0.48 0.25 0.22 1.00

13 Appendix Table 2.--Continued.

Specie code	s Name of species	Product code	Conversion rate
128 128 128 128 128 128 128	English sole	1 2 3 4 5 22 99	1.00 1.00 0.98 0.90 0.65 0.22 1.00
129 129 129 129 129 129	Starry flounder Starry flounder Starry flounder Starry flounder Starry flounder Starry flounder	1 2 3 4 98 99	1.00 1.00 0.98 0.90 1.00
131 131 131 131 131 131	Petrale sole	1 2 3 8 98 99	1.00 1.00 0.98 0.65 1.00
132 132 132 132 132	Sand sole Sand sole Sand sole Sand sole Sand sole	1 2 3 98 99	1.00 1.00 0.98 1.00
133 133 133 133 133 133 133	Alaska plaice	1 2 3 5 12 98 99	1.00 1.00 0.98 0.65 0.48 1.00

14 Appendix Table 2.--Continued.

Species code	s Name of species	Product code	Conversion rate
134 134 134 134 134 134 134	Greenland turbot Greenland turbot Greenland turbot Greenland turbot Greenland turbot	1 2 3 4 5 8 10 20 22 98 99	1.00 1.00 0.98 0.90 0.74 0.62 0.60 0.30 0.35 1.00
135 135 135 135 135 135 135 135 135	Greenstripe rockfish	1 2 3 4 5 7 8 22 98 99	1.00 1.00 0.98 0.88 0.60 0.50 0.25 1.00
136	Northern rockfish	3	0.98
137	Boccacio rockfish	3	0.98
138	Copper rockfish	3	0.98
139 139 139 139 139 139 139 139 139	Other rockfish	1 2 3 4 5 7 8 20 22 98 99	1.00 1.00 0.98 0.88 0.60 0.60 0.50 0.42 0.25 1.00

15 Appendix Table 2.--Continued.

Species code Name of species	Product code	Conversion rate
140 Red rockfish (red snapper)	1 2 3 4 5 7 8 22 98 99	1.00 1.00 0.98 0.88 0.60 0.50 0.25 1.00
141 Pacific ocean perch	1 2 3 4 5 7 8 22 98 99	1.00 1.00 0.98 0.88 0.60 0.60 0.50 0.25 1.00
Black rockfish	1 2 3 4 5 7 8 22 98 99	1.00 1.00 0.98 0.88 0.60 0.60 0.61 0.25 1.00

16 Appendix Table 2.--Continued.

Specie code	s Name of species	Product code	Conversion rate
143 143 143 143 143 143 143 143 143	Thornyhead rockfish	1 2 3 4 5 7 8 22 98 99	1.00 1.00 0.98 0.88 0.60 0.60 0.50 0.25 1.00
144 144 144 144 144 144 144	Unspecified slope rockfish	1 3 4 5 7 8 98 99	1.00 0.98 0.88 0.60 0.60 0.50 1.00
145 145 145 145 145 145 145 145 145	Yelloweye rockfish	1 2 3 4 5 7 8 12 22 98 99	1.00 1.00 0.98 0.88 0.60 0.50 0.45 0.22 1.00

17 Appendix Table 2.--Continued.

Specie code	s Name of species	Product code	Conversion rate
146 146 146 146 146 146 146 146 146	Canary rockfish	1 2 3 4 5 7 8 22 98 99	1.00 1.00 0.98 0.88 0.60 0.60 0.50 0.22 1.00
147 147 147 147 147 147 147 147	Quillback rockfish	1 2 3 4 5 8 22 98 99	1.00 1.00 0.98 0.88 0.60 0.50 0.22 1.00
148 148 148 148 148 148 148	Tiger rockfish	1 2 3 5 22 98 99	1.00 1.00 0.98 0.60 0.22 1.00
149 149 149 149 149 149 149 149	China rockfish	1 2 3 5 8 9 22 98 99	1.00 1.00 0.98 0.60 0.50 0.60 0.22 1.00

18 Appendix Table 2.--Continued.

Specie code	s Name of species	Product code	Conversion rate
150 150 150 150 150 150	Rosethorn rockfish	1 2 3 12 22 98 99	1.00 1.00 0.98 0.65 0.22 1.00
151 151 151 151 151 151 151 151 151	Rougheye rockfish	1 2 3 4 5 7 8 22 98 99	1.00 1.00 0.98 0.82 0.60 0.60 0.50 0.22 1.00
152 152 152 152 152 152 152 152 152 152	Shortraker rockfish	1 2 3 4 5 7 8 22 23 98 99	1.00 1.00 0.98 0.88 0.60 0.50 0.22 0.22 1.00

19 Appendix Table 2.--Continued.

Specie code	s Name of species	Product code	Conversion rate
153 153 153 153 153 153 153 153 153	Redbanded rockfish	1 2 3 4 5 7 8 22 98 99	1.00 1.00 0.98 0.88 0.60 0.60 0.50 0.22 1.00
154 154 154 154 154 154 154 154	Dusky rockfish	1 2 3 4 5 7 8 22 98 99	1.00 1.00 0.98 0.88 0.60 0.60 0.50 0.22 1.00
155 155 155 155 155 155	Yellowtail rockfish	1 2 3 8 22 98 99	1.00 1.00 0.98 0.50 0.22 1.00
156 156 156 156 156 156	Widow rockfish Widow rockfish Widow rockfish Widow rockfish Widow rockfish Widow rockfish	1 2 3 22 98 99	1.00 1.00 0.98 0.22 1.00

20 Appendix Table 2.--Continued.

Specie code	s Name of species	Product code	Conversion rate
157 157 157 157 157 157 157	Silvergray rockfish	1 2 3 5 8 22 98 99	1.00 1.00 0.98 0.60 0.50 0.22 1.00
158 158 158 158 158 158 158	Redstripe rockfish	1 2 3 8 22 98 99	1.00 1.00 0.98 0.50 0.22 1.00
159 159 159 159 159 159 159	Darkblotched rockfish	1 2 3 4 5 8 98 99	1.00 1.00 0.98 0.88 0.60 0.50 1.00
160 160 160 160 160	Bullhead sculpin Bullhead sculpin Bullhead sculpin Bullhead sculpin Bullhead sculpin Bullhead sculpin	1 2 3 5 98 99	1.00 1.00 0.98 0.65 1.00
165	Riffle sculpin	3	0.98
168 168 168 168 168	Unsp. Demersel shelf rockfish	1 2 3 5 8	1.00 1.00 0.98 0.60 0.50

21 Appendix Table 2.--Continued.

Species code	Name of species	Product code	Conversion rate
169 169 169	Unsp. Pelagic shelf rockfish Unsp. Pelagic shelf rockfish Unsp. Pelagic shelf rockfish	1 3 5	1.00 0.98 0.60
193 193 193 193 193 193	Atka mackerel	1 2 3 4 5 98 99	1.00 1.00 0.98 0.87 0.61 1.00
270 270 270 270 270 270 270 270 270 270	Pollock Pollock Pollock Pollock Pollock Pollock Pollock Pollock Pollock (total pollock) Pollock (usable female pollock) Pollock	1 2 3 4 5 8 9 14 14 22 23 30 31 32 98 99	1.00 1.00 0.98 0.80 0.62 0.72 0.56 0.065 0.1375 0.30 0.25 0.22 0.50 0.17 1.00
510 510	Smelt (general) Smelt (general)	98 99	1.00
511 511 511	Eulachon smelt Eulachon smelt Eulachon smelt	1 98 99	1.00 1.00 1.00
689 689 689 689 689 689	Shark (general)	1 2 3 4 5 98 99	1.00 1.00 0.98 0.85 0.72 1.00

22 Appendix Table 2.--Continued.

Specie code	s Name of species	Product code	Conversion rate
690 690 690 690 690	Salmon shark Salmon shark Salmon shark Salmon shark Salmon shark Salmon shark	1 2 3 5 98 99	1.00 1.00 0.98 0.72 1.00
691 691 691 691 691	Spiny dogfish Spiny dogfish Spiny dogfish Spiny dogfish Spiny dogfish Spiny dogfish	1 2 3 4 98 99	1.00 1.00 0.98 0.70 1.00
700 700 700 700 700 700 700	Skate Skate Skate Skate Skate Skate Skate	1 2 3 5 22 98 99	1.00 1.00 0.98 0.72 0.25 1.00
710 710 710 710 710 710 710 710 710 710	Sablefish (black cod)	1 2 3 4 5 7 8 22 23 98 99	1.00 1.00 0.98 0.89 0.68 0.62 0.30 0.25 1.00
870 870 870 870 870 870	octopus octopus octopus octopus octopus octopus	1 3 4 5 98 99	1.00 0.98 0.90 0.85 1.00
875 875 875 875	Squid Squid Squid Squid	1 2 98 99	1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00